

# Message from the Harbormaster

May 8, 2009

The rockslide is finally moving over to allow a little traffic into Whittier. I think we lost about 30 days of boating access to Prince William Sound and many of us were getting weary of all the peace and quiet surrounding our little harbor. The latest information on road and tunnel openings are located on the front page of this website and can be obtained through ADOT, as well.

I wanted to wait until we had our first experience in using the new East Boat Ramp before sending out this latest message so that I could report on how things went. The first road and tunnel opening at 5:30 am produced more than 25 rigs and trailers. With the new three lane system, we had them in the water in about twenty minutes. For the first time since I've been here, the boats were holding us up while they were un-strapping prior to launch.

Almost to a person, people were complimentary and very pleased with the new facility and I want to take this opportunity to place thanks where it is deserved. The funding for this boat ramp came from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division Access Program. The facility cost was over \$2 Million. The contractor was Harris Sand and Gravel of Valdez and the engineering was done by PND Engineers of Anchorage. Thanks everyone! You did a hell of a good job!

We are building our summer staff which we hire to manage our parking lots and keep our restrooms habitable. Under my authority as a Peace Officer they will be writing parking tickets for those who fail to get parking permits for the permit parking, overstay the two hour parking or park in the handicap zones. Flat land is at a premium here folks so help us out by paying attention to the signs. Also, please be aware that all boat trailer and RV parking is located on the other side of the tracks from the marina at Whispering Falls. They have camping facilities as well. You can reach them by calling 907-350-0937.

I'm looking forward to a great season. Our staff is striving to make your visit with us friendlier, cleaner and more helpful than ever before. Stop in and say hi! Good boating, good fishing and good luck!